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THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

DEBEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1937.

BY

CHARLES M. WHITEFORD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

DEBEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

From the 1st January, 1937, to the 31st December, 1937.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith my Report for the Year 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY DURING 1937.

Medical Officer of Health:
Dr. W. W. Crawford, L.R.C.S., Etc.

Sanitary Inspector: D. Jenkinson, M. Inst. M., & Cy. E., Cert. R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector:
R. T. W. Bedford, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the District.

Area (in acres)	109,974
Estimated Population - (Registrar General) for the Year 1937 ... ... an increase of 170 from 1936.	24,070
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1937 ... an increase of 668 from 1936.	7,100

The Rateable Value is £100,013, and the estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate is £405 as compared with £416 in 1936.

THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district presents the characteristics of an Agricultural County—stretches of arable and pasture land, with scattered villages, and, near to the larger and more densely populated Urban areas, some parishes that approach Urbanisation. The

parishes near to Ipswich—Rushmere, Foxhall, Kesgrave; Melton near to Woodbridge; and the Trimleys nearby Felixstowe—these are the more popular and residential parishes.

The Parishes included in the Deben Rural District are:—Alderton, Bawdsey, Bealings Great, Bealings Little, Blaxhall, Boulge, Boyton, Bredfield, Brightwell, Bromeswell, Bucklesham, Burgh, Butley, Campsea Ashe, Capel St. Andrew, Charsfield, Chillesford, Clopton, Cretingham, Culpho, Dallinghoo, Dallinghoo Wield, Debach, Eyke, Falkenham, Foxhall, Gedgrave, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Havergate Island, Hemley, Hollesley, Hoo, Iken, Kesgrave, Kirton, Letheringham, Levington, Martlesham, Melton, Monewden, Nacton, Newbourne, Orford, Otley, Pettistree, Playford, Purdis Farm, Ramsholt, Rendlesham, Rushmere, Shottisham, Stratton Hall, Sudbourne, Sutton, Swilland, Trimley St. Martin, Trimley St. Mary, Tuddenham, Tunstall, Ufford, Waldringfield, Wantisden, Westerfield, Wickham Market and Witnesham.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated population for the year 1937, *viz.*, 24,070.

LIVE BIRTHS.

		TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Legitimate	...	332	185	147
Illegitimate	...	13	7	6
	Total	345	192	153

The Birth Rate is 14·4 per 1,000 population compared with 12·6 in 1936; that of England and Wales is 14·9.

STILL BIRTHS.

The total number of Still Births is 11—comprising 8 males and 3 females, and all of them legitimate.

This gives a rate of 30·9 per 1,000 births. The rate per 1,000 population is 0·46, that for England and Wales being 0·60.

DEATHS.

Total—315. Males—151. Females—164.

This gives a Death Rate, per 1,000 estimated population, of 13·1. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 12·4. During 1936, the Death Rate for Deben was 11·96.

A proportion of 142 out of the total 315 deaths, *i.e.*, 45%, occurred in Public Institutions, as tabulated hereunder :—

St. Audry's Hospital	83
Isolation Hospital	2
Almshouses	—
Sanatoria	5
Hospitals	28
Poor Law Infirmaries	20
Nursing Homes	4
Total	142

An analysis of the ages at death during the year gives the following interesting figures :—

At age 90 years or over	9
At age 80 years or over	67
At age 70 years or over	109

thus giving a total of 185 dying at or beyond the age of 70, a figure of 58% of the total deaths of the District.

Deaths of women dying in or in consequence of child birth :

Puerperal Sepsis	—	Rate per 1,000 total births 2·8
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	
Total	1	

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births 37·7 (England and Wales 58).

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 33·1.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 153·8.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	44
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	None
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	None

Herewith are extended tabulation of the cause of death, in cases occurring during 1937.

	MALE	FEMALE
Appendicitis	0	1
Bronchitis	3	7
Cancer	25	19
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	8	19
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Congenital Causes	4	5
Diabetes	3	2
Heart Disease	41	39
Other Circulatory Disorders ...	5	5
Influenza	6	16
Measles	2	2
Nephritis	3	5
Peptic Ulcer	0	1
Other Digestive Disorders ...	1	6
Pneumonia	7	6
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	0
Poliomyelitis	0	1
Puerperal Causes	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Senility	5	7
Suicide	1	0
Other Violence	16	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	6
Tuberculosis—other forms ...	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Other Defined Causes	15	12
Totals	151	165

TUBERCULOSIS.

An analysis of New Cases of Tuberculous disease, and of Deaths from Tuberculosis is appended :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 –	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 –	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
5 –	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
10 –	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
15 –	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	—
20 –	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
25 –	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 –	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 –	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 –	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 – and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals	3	6	5	8	2	7	—	1

One case was not notified before death, giving a ratio of 10% of the total Tuberculosis deaths.

There was also one case of Tuberculosis (included in the above table), whose death was certified as due to causes other than Tuberculosis.

During the year these were removed from the Tuberculosis Register 18 cases, for the reasons stated.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	TOTAL
Diagnosis not established			—	3	3
Removed to other Districts	3	3	—	2	8
Cured	1	1	2	3	7

There were no cases from other areas coming into this District.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
No Action required.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172—No Action required.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) during 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	AGE GROUPS.										Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
		0–	1–	5–	10–	15–	20–	25–	35–	45–	65 and upwards		
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	41	—	7	13	9	3	1	3	5	—	—	28	1
Diphtheria	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	29	2	3	2	—	—	3	2	3	9	5	4	13
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Infantile Paralysis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	81											40	16

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF INFECTIOUS CASES SENT TO IPSWICH BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The figure for this year of the Health Service during 1937, was £504 3s. 11d. This shows an increase of £202 9s. 2d. over the figures for 1936.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The East Suffolk County Council Laboratory at Ipswich is available for all examination or analysis of clinical specimens, water, milk and foods.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(*a*) Infectious Diseases—Ipswich Corporation Ambulance.

(*b*) Non-Infectious Diseases and Accidents—East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital Ambulance ; and St. John Ambulance Association Ambulance, Ipswich.

The above arrangements for a scattered population of 24,000, have been found to function well under ordinary conditions. All recent effort is towards regional grouping of Hospitals, etc., and the focal point for East Suffolk is Ipswich, with its Isolation and Municipal Hospitals, Sanatorium and General Hospital.

Under war conditions, however, it can be visualised that the supply of Ambulance facilities will devolve more upon areas at present dependent upon a regional centre. A scheme whereby this District would be divided into several clearance areas—casualties to be cleared to the centres, and, if necessitated, from there transported to Hospital—this scheme would meet such an emergency, and earmarking of vehicles suitable for transferring into emergency ambulances is being initiated.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Associations work in conjunction with the County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES and CLINICS.

The only Centre is the Welfare Clinic in the Woodbridge Urban District.

HOSPITALS.

Infectious Diseases. Cases of Infectious Disease requiring institutional treatment are admitted to the Ipswich Borough Isolation Hospital under an agreement with the Borough Council.

Tuberculosis. Pulmonary cases are treated at the East Suffolk County Council Hospital at Normanston, and at the Ipswich Borough Isolation Hospital, Foxhall Heath. Surgical cases are treated at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

MATERNITY and NURSING HOMES.

One at Melton.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Arrangements are undertaken by the County Council for treatment of pathological conditions of pregnancy.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.

The Poor Law Institution, Ipswich; and the Children's Home, Grundisburgh.

Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.

Arranged by the Public Assistance Committee in collaboration with the County Council.

Health Visitors, Child Life Protection, Orthopædic Treatment, Prevention of Blindness, etc., and Schools are all dealt with by the County Medical Officer.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

LOCAL ACTS, SPECIAL LOCAL ORDERS, GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

22nd July, 1923. Bye-Laws in respect of Slaughter Houses (humane killer).

1925. Public Health Act, 1925—partly in force, partly adopted.

June, 1925. Bye-Laws in respect of New Buildings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES. Parts of the Parishes of Rushmere St. Andrew and Purdis Farm are supplied by Ipswich Corporation; part of Melton is supplied by Woodbridge Water Company; and parts of Trimley St. Martin, and Trimley St. Mary, and the parish of Kirton are supplied by Felixstowe Water Company.

Herewith are the relevant figures :—

215	houses	in Rushmere St. Andrew	are supplied by Ipswich County Borough.
80	,,	Purdis Farm	,, ,, ,,
260	,,	Melton	are supplied by Woodbridge Water Co.
82	,,	Trimley St. Martin	by Felixstowe Water Co.
146	,,	Trimley St. Mary	,, ,, ,,
33	,,	Kirton	,, ,, ,,

During 1937, by an agreement with a property owner, Deben Rural District Council was able to supply from a private bore water to 7 houses in Martlesham Parish.

132	,,	Rushmere	,,
325	,,	Kesgrave	,,

The Combined Regional Water Scheme undertaken by the Council is now under way, and water from the Tuddenham collecting ground is distributed from the pumping station there *via* a water tower to the Parishes of Martlesham, Kesgrave, Rushmere St. Andrew and Purdis Farm.

Mains are being laid to Tuddenham, Witnesham, Swilland, Otley, Grundisburgh, Burgh, Clopton, Debach, Boulge, Bredfield, Hasketon, Dallinghoo, Pettistree, Wickham Market, Culpho and Ufford; the ultimate object being to have a piped supply for all the above parishes.

The remainder of the area is supplied by water drawn mainly from crag wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage scheme for the two parishes of Trimley was nearing completion towards the end of the year.

A scheme for the parish of Wickham Market has been prepared and has been passed by the Ministry; and a scheme for the parish of Melton is now in course of preparation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action was taken in cases where gross pollution of streams occurred through the discharge of crude sewage.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There have been 78 conversions from the conservancy system during the year. New houses have water closets, the sewage being dealt with by the septic tank system.

Number of Earth Closets	...	...	5113
Number of Water Closets	...	...	1211

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

One parish, Melton, has a scheme for the removal of household refuse, and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools. The house refuse is dealt with at the Incinerator belonging to Woodbridge U.D.C.

A scheme has been drawn up for refuse collection over the whole area, and it is hoped to have it soon in being.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Farms and Dairies are periodically inspected, and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1925, enforced where necessary.

The majority of the Farms and Dairies have been found to be satisfactory as regards cleanliness of premises and methods of producing milk. Samples of milk are now taken by the Veterinary Inspector of the County Council for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Slaughter-Houses, Butchers' Shops and Bake-Houses are regularly inspected. Meat inspection is also carried out in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

152 visits were made to Slaughter-Houses, and 590 Pigs, 2 Beasts and 1 Sheep were inspected.

The following Meat was found to be diseased and was ordered to be destroyed :—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pigs	Heads	95
,,	Livers	3
,,	Lungs	8 pairs
,,	Carcases	2

UNSOUND.

Pig's	Head	1
Pigs	Livers	5
,,	Lungs	5 pairs
Beast's	Liver	1
Beast's	Lungs	1 pair

ADULTERATION, Etc.

Does not apply.

CHEMICAL and BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD—

Is provided for by arrangement with the County Laboratory in Ipswich.

SHOPS.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature in shops, and to sanitary conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one swimming pool under the jurisdiction of the R.D.C., in connection with a Road House Tea-room. No action was taken during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) (*a*) No. of Council Houses—i found to be infested Nil.
ii disinfested ... Nil.

(*b*) No. of other houses—i found to be infested Nil.
ii disinfested ... Nil.

(2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs :—

No action was necessary during the year.

(3) Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses :—A preliminary inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Any work of disinfestation would be carried out by contractor, using van with cyanide gas.

(5) Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing :

On inspection of premises the Sanitary Inspector gives information as to how to detect and prevent infestation.

1. **INSPECTION of DWELLING-HOUSES during the year.**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 388

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 720

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 42

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 105

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 29

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 13

2. REMEDY of DEFECTS during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 40

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 9

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 70

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 70

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 22

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 98

(ii) Number of Families dwelling therein ... 98

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 437

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil.

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... Nil.

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.

LIST OF DWELLING-HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Total Dwellings
Alderton	—	1	1
Bealings Little	1	1	2
Blaxhall	—	1	1
Bromeswell	—	1	1
Bucklesham	1	—	1
Grundisburgh	4	2	6
Hemley	1	—	1
Hollesley	1	2	3
Kesgrave	2	6	8
Kirton	4	—	4
Martlesham	6	3	9
Melton	22	2	24
Otley	1	1	2
Pettistree	—	1	1
Playford	1	—	1
Purdis Farm	1	—	1
Rushmere	5	11	16
Sutton	1	—	1
Swilland	—	1	1
Trimley St. Martin ...	2	—	2
Trimley St. Mary	2	—	2
Tuddenham	1	—	1
Ufford	5	1	6
Waldringfield	1	1	2
Westerfield	2	1	3
Wickham Market	—	1	1
Witnesham	1	—	1
Totals	65	37	102

LIST OF ADDITIONS TO DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Parish	Additions to Houses.	Additions to Bungalows.	Total Additions.
Bawdsey	1	—	1
Bealings Little	3	3	6
Boyton	12	—	12
Bredfield	1	—	1
Clopton	1	—	1
Eyke	3	—	3
Hasketon	1	—	1
Iken	1	—	1
Kesgrave	1	1	2
Martlesham	1	—	1
Melton	3	—	3
Orford	2	—	2
Playford	1	—	1
Purdis Farm	2	—	2
Rushmere	1	—	1
Sutton	1	—	1
Tuddenham	2	—	2
Ufford	1	2	3
Wickham Market ...	1	—	1
Totals ...	39	6	45

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY ACTS IN WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

During the year the following visits of Inspection were made under Section 132 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 :—

Visits to Factories	15
Visits to Bakehouses	12

No action was found necessary.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

Number of complaints received	... ...	49
,,	Houses and premises inspected... ...	904
,,	Re-inspections	521
,,	Drains laid to existing houses	81
,,	Defective drains condemned	Nil
,,	Houses disinfected	60
,,	Earth closets provided to existing houses ...	Nil
,,	Water closets provided to existing houses...	86
,,	Privies converted to pail closets	2
,,	Drinking water wells condemned... ...	6
,,	Slaughter-houses inspections	152
,,	Bakehouses inspections	12
,,	Factories and Workshops inspected ...	15
,,	Defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	40
,,	Accumulations of filth removed	7
,,	Samples of Milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli	8

(*Signed*) D. JENKINSON, *Sanitary Inspector.*